104-10129-10396

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Ray's Lawyer Sees A Communist Plot

WASHINGTON POST
7-28-68

MEMPHIS, Tenn., July 27 (AP)—Arthur J. Hanes, defense lawyer for James Earl Ray, said today that an international Communist conspiracy was involved in the slaying of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Hanes said that immediately after King was assassinated here April 4, U.S. Attorney General Ramsey Clark called the slaying a one-man job. Ray is charged with murder in the death.

"But, gentlemen," Hanes told newsmen, "I am here to tell you right now that in my judgment the Attorney General of the United States is 100 per cent wrong. There is a giant conspiracy here and my client is being used by the conspiracy."

Hanes did not elaborate except to say that the information came from a reliable source and that it all would come out at Ray's trial next November.

Speaking at an impromptu news conference, Hanes also assailed what he called a lack of privacy for his client and an invasion of Ray's rights since his arrest in London June 8 and his return here.

"While I think Sheriff William N. Morris and his people are trying to protect my client's political rights, they are at the same time trampling his individual rights," he said.

Referring to the closed circuit television that monitors Ray in his jail cell, the former Birmingham Mayor said:

"Neither my client nor I like the idea of cameras being focused on him 24 hours a day. He has to hide his head under a pillow in order to get any sleep. He even has the evil eye of a camera on him when he uses the bathroom . . . This in my opinion is an invasion of his privacy and it is hurting his health, because he can't sleep with cameras blazing on him. Gentlemen, this is cruel."

JFK ACT
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Ray Judge Names Panel on Publicity Ban Effectiveness

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) —A panel of eight lawyers has been named by Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle to study "possible violation" of his court order on publicity in the James Earl Ray case.

Battle, who will try Ray on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., would not say what prompted his naming the committee yesterday.

He acted a day after Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., Ray's chief defense attorney, held a news conference to say Ray is the victim of a Communist plot. Hanes also charged Saturday that his client's rights are being violated by an around-the-clock television security watch.

Battle said the committee of lawyers met yesterday and could have a report as early as today.

Battle has issued an order prohibiting interviews with principals in the case and statements that would be "prejudicial to a fair trial by an impartial jury."

Ray's trial is scheduled to start Nov. 12.

Post
7-28-68